



The President's Daily Brief

February 17, 1975

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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USSR-CHINA

A new round of Sino-Soviet border talks has apparently begun in Peking, but neither side is showing any optimism.

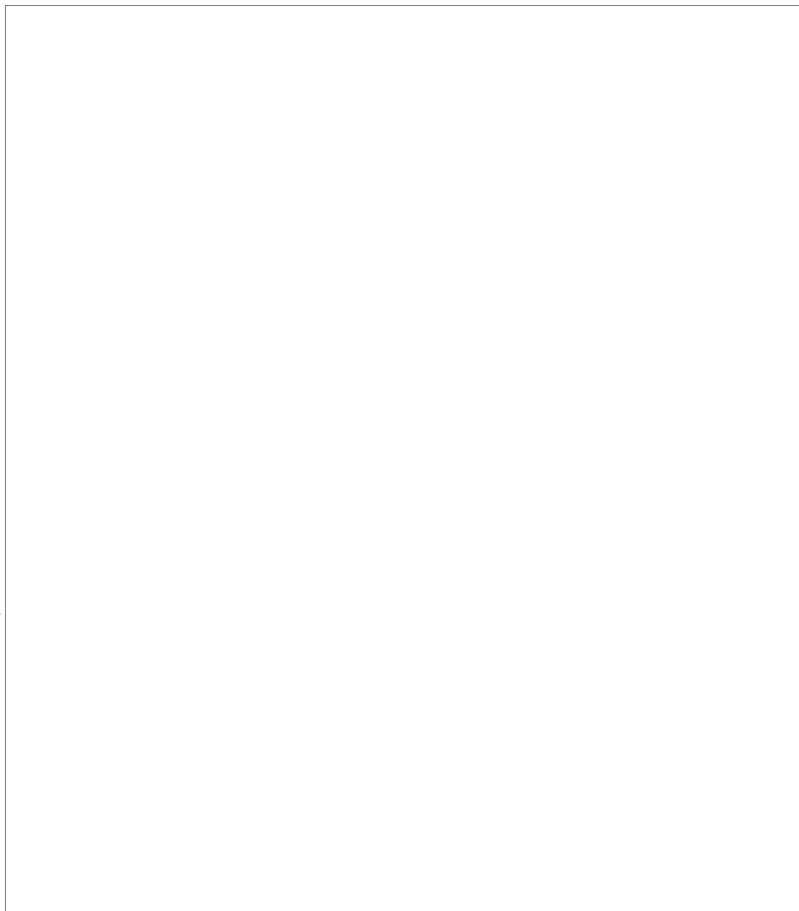
A high-ranking official in the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed in a recent discussion with a US diplomat that Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev had returned to Peking to resume the talks, and that the first session had been scheduled for February 14. He denied that there was any special significance to Ilichev's return at this time, and quipped that he is a troubleshooter who usually fails.

In response to a question as to why the chief Chinese negotiator had been replaced, the Soviet official said Moscow had been informed that Ilichev's counterpart was seriously ill. The appointment of Han Nien-lung as chief Chinese negotiator does not appear to signal a shift in Peking's position. Each side has, in fact, recently stepped up press criticism of the other, and neither has demonstrated a desire for reconciliation.

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EGYPT-USSR

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GREECE

Dissatisfaction within the Greek military apparently is leading to some coup plotting.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] action could take place almost immediately, [REDACTED] officers hope that a breakdown of law and order will play into their hands over the next several months.

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Aside from a common determination to oust Prime Minister Karamanlis, the plotters apparently have divergent goals. Some favor a return of the King; others are seeking a return to full participation in NATO.

[REDACTED] the plotters, although anti-communist, will offer a place in the post-coup government to extreme leftist Andreas Papandreou or to Ilias Iliou of the United Democratic Left.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] not believe that the forces involved in the plotting have the organization, base, or leadership to move successfully now. The popular mood in Greece would also militate against such a move.

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A desperate move by former junta elements, however, cannot be completely ruled out.

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